

**From:** dkitts  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 8:46am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Will you PLEASE leave Microsoft alone and end this case now. As an IT professional, I see many of my peers in jeopardy of layoff or already looking for jobs due to the slowing of companies application development cycles. Much of this has to do with the economy, but when times are tough economically, companies stop spending on 'risky' investments. The turmoil surrounding the Microsoft case has made companies put many projects on hold due to anxiety on the base operating systems to run the applications on. The anti-trust case is helping to keep that up!

I believe that a quick settlement will help bolster the economy, help the .com industry back on it's feet and will be the best thing for the United States.

I also believe that Microsoft has had a historically better record of keeping the consumer and businesses best welfare in mind than most other vendors. BEFORE MS, companies like Apple charged OUTRAGEOUS amounts of money for their software, particularly operating systems. Now, you can buy sophisticated operating systems like Windows 2000 Professional for under \$400!!!!

I also thoroughly believe that Microsoft came to market years ago with better, more consumer friendly products than Netscape and AOL and therefore deserved to win the market share they have. When a truly better product IS available, I'm sure the IT industry will flock to it. Look at the interest in Linux! It is mainly a warmed up version of the venerable UNIX operating system, but they have sold TONS of copies just out of curiosity of the IT industry. If Linux ever is proven to be better, it will flood the IT landscape in months...but, at this point, it is simply not technically better or more efficient. (By the way, IT professionals will argue UNIX vs. Windows vs. whatever forever, much like teenage boys will argue over which was faster, Pontiac or Ford)

As far as Netscape goes, a few years ago I attended a Netscape Professional Developers Conference (sponsored by Netscape). At that point in time they pretty much stated on an emotional, not logical, level that they hated MS. They didn't even want to build a Web server to run on a Microsoft platform!!! I believe that Netscape (AOL) will whine forever about Microsoft and will always be trying to manipulate the courts, the DOJ or whoever they can to try to 'compete' with Microsoft. This is not because they are not allowed to compete in the market place, it is because they just simply cannot produce anything better than equivalent products.

Please stop wasting my tax money on Microsoft...I'd much rather pay for the War on Terrorism. Even if the amount of money spent on the Microsoft Anti

Trust case only equates to one day of expense for the War on Terrorism, I'd MUCH rather spend the money on day hunting for bin Laden, than years hunting Bill Gates.

Just my humble opinions,

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